

REMARKS

In response to the office action of December 24, 2008, Applicant submits the enclosed amendments and remarks.

The claims have been amended to include features of original claims 1 and 6 and are also supported by paragraph 15 of the specification. It is believed that the amendments do not constitute new matter.

As regards the §112 rejection, Applicant believes that the claims are properly supported by the specification and figures as the claimed features are shown in the figures and correspondingly described in the specification. Applicant has removed references to a tapered region to clarify the claims.

As regards the prior art rejections, Applicant believes that the claims distinguish over the prior art. The cited references do not teach such a roof rack where a support as claimed is located on the underside of the rail. The prior art shows the end of the rail being affixed to a plate, and does not appear to show a support structure such as structure 22 as described in the application. Applicant believes that the prior art thus does not teach the amended claims.

Applicant believes that the claims are properly supported by the specification and are in condition for allowance over the prior art.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized during the entire pendency of this application to credit any overpayment and debit any amount owing, including fees for extensions of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-2720.

Sincerely,

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